

Notice of Allowability

Application No.

09/732,024

Examiner

Tammy T. Nguyen

Applicant(s)

NEWMAN ET AL.

Art Unit

2144

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTOL-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. **THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS.** This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1. ☒ This communication is responsive to July 12, 2006.
2. ☒ The allowed claim(s) is/are 4, 5, 7-9, 13, 15-17, 21, 23, -26. Renumbered 1-14.
3. ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
 - a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some* c) ☐ None of the:
 1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* Certified copies not received: _____.

Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application.

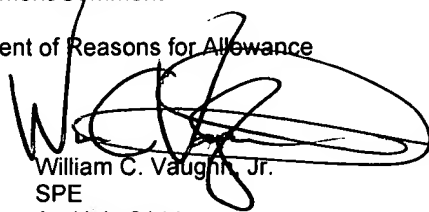
THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.

4. ☐ A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.
5. ☐ CORRECTED DRAWINGS (as "replacement sheets") must be submitted.
 - (a) ☐ including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) attached
 - 1) ☐ hereto or 2) ☐ to Paper No./Mail Date _____.
 - (b) ☐ including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of Paper No./Mail Date _____.

Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet. Replacement sheet(s) should be labeled as such in the header according to 37 CFR 1.121(d).
6. ☐ DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

Attachment(s)

1. ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
2. ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
3. ☐ Information Disclosure Statements (PTO/SB/08),
Paper No./Mail Date _____
4. ☐ Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit
of Biological Material
5. ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application
6. ☒ Interview Summary (PTO-413),
Paper No./Mail Date 5/1/07.
7. ☐ Examiner's Amendment/Comment
8. ☒ Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance
9. ☐ Other _____


William C. Vaughn, Jr.
SPE
Art Unit: 2144



UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS
UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20231
www.uspto.gov

EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT

An examiner's amendment to the record appears below. Should the changes and/or additions be unacceptable to applicant, an amendment may be filed as provided by 37 CFR 1.312. To ensure consideration of such an amendment, it **MUST** be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee.

Authorization for this examiner's amendment was given in a telephone interview with Mr Patrick J.S. Inouye (reg.40,297) on September 20, 2006.

The applicant has been amended as follow:

Claim 1(canceled).

Claim 2 (canceled).

Claim 3 (canceled).

Claim 4. (currently amended): A method for presenting email threads, comprising: identifying logical components of messages in an e-mail thread, comprising: generating a message tree comprising nodes that recursively divide each message into a main body, nested excerpts from other messages, and lowest level logical components, comprising: performing a top-down, recursive descent to recursively divide each message into the nodes; and decomposing each node into the logical components using a weighted finite-state machine, comprising: building a weight network using a weighted finite state grammar; identifying a maximally weighted path through the network; and traversing the

maximally weighted path to identify the logical components of the section; determining relationship between the messages in the thread using the logical components; and generating a document based upon the relationships by identifying and removing redundant logical components in each of the messages in the thread.

Claim 5. The method of claim 4, wherein the step of decomposing comprises: logically concatenating subsections of the main body that are separated by incorporated excerpts; and applying the weighted finite state machine to the subsections.

Claim 6 (canceled).

Claim 7. The method of claim 4, wherein the document includes compressed forms of the messages.

Claim 8. The method of claim 7, wherein each of the compressed forms comprises no-extraneous parts of primary text and abbreviated forms of incorporated excerpts.

Claim 9. The method of claim 4, wherein the document includes replies as annotation forms for each of the messages.

Claim 10 (canceled).

Claim 11 (canceled).

Claim 12 (canceled).

Claim 13 (currently amended): A computer controlled display system comprising: a display for presenting e-mail threads on a viewing area; and a processor that is adapted to identify logical components of messages in an e-mail thread, comprising: a message tree that includes nodes that recursively divide each message into a main body, nested

Art Unit: 2144

excerpts from other messages, and lowest level logical components, comprising: a top down descent analyzer to perform a top-down, recursive descent analysis to create nodes of the message tree; and a weighted finite state machine to analyze divided extents using a weight finite state machine; wherein the processor is further adapted to build a weighted network using a weighted finite state grammar, to identify a maximally weighted path through the weighted finite state machine, and to develop a sub tree by traversing the maximally weighted path; relationships determined by the processor between each message in the thread using the logical components; and a medium generated based upon the determined relationships, wherein any redundant logical components in each of the messages in the thread are identified and removed.

Claim 14 (canceled).

Claim 15. The system of claim 13, wherein the document includes compressed forms of the messages.

Claim 16. The system of claim 15, wherein each of the compressed form contain non-extraneous parts of primary text.

Claim 17. The system of claim 13, wherein the document includes replies annotation forms for each of the messages.

Claim 18 (canceled).

Claim 19 (canceled).

Claim 20 (canceled).

Claim 21. A computer-readable storage medium to store computer codes, comprising: information that presents e-mail threads on a viewing area of a display;

information that identifies logical components of messages in an e-mail thread, comprising: information that generates a message tree that includes nodes that recursively divide each message into a main body, nested excerpts from other messages, and lowest level logical component, comprising: information that performs a top-down, recursive descent analysis to create some nodes of the message tree; and information that analyzes divided extents using a weighed finite state machine, comprising: information that builds a weighted network using a weighted finite state grammar; information that identifies a maximally weighted path through the weighted finite stated machine; and information that develops a sub tree by traversing the maximally weighted path; information that determines relationships between each message in the thread using the logical components; and information that generates a medium based upon the determined relationships, wherein any redundant logical components in each of the messages in the thread are identified and removed.

Claim 22 (Canceled).

Claim 23. The storage medium of claim 21, wherein the medium includes compressed forms of the messages.

Claim 24. The storage medium of claim 23, wherein each of the compressed form contains non-extraneous parts of primary text.

Claim 25. The storage medium of claim 21, wherein the medium includes replies as annotation forms for each of the messages.

Claim 26. A computer system for presenting email threads, comprising: e-mail threads presented in a medium as semi-connected text; and a computer processor for: (a)

identifying logical components of messages in an e-mail thread, comprising: (19) performing a top down descent to recursively divide each message into nodes; and (2) decomposing each node into the logical components using a weighted finite state machine, comprising: (i) building a weight network using a weighted finite state grammar; (ii) identifying a maximally weighted path through the weight finite stated machine; and (iii) information that develops a subs tree by traversing the maximally weighted path to identify the logical components of the section; (b) determining relationships between each message in the thread using the logical components; and (c) generating a medium based upon the determined relationships, wherein any redundant logical components n each of the messages in the thread are identified and removed.

Claim 27(Canceled).

The following is an examiner statement of reason for allowance:

In interpreting the claims, in light of the specification filed on July 12, 2006, the examiner finds the claimed invention to be patentably distinct form the prior art or record.

Mithras C. Maurille, (US, 6,484,196), teach a system and method that provides integrated combinations of threaded instant messages, open display bulletin boards, private bulletin boards, threaded email, explicit acknowledgment of messages, and conferencing. System components include a server, client and data repository application wherein server and client application are web based, the server application sends all

information to the client application in the form of web pages, which the user of the client can view and respond to using a browser (Maurille abstract).

However, the prior art of fails to teach or suggest individually or in combination that a method for presenting email threads, comprising: identifying logical components of messages in an e-mail thread, comprising: generating a message tree comprising nodes that recursively divide each message into a main body, nested excerpts from other messages, and lowest level logical components, comprising: performing a top-down, recursive descent to recursively divide each message into the nodes; and decomposing each node into the logical components using a weighted finite-state machine, comprising: building a weight network using a weighted finite state grammar; identifying a maximally weighted path through the network; and traversing the maximally weighted path to identify the logical components of the section; determining relationship between the messages in the thread using the logical components; and generating a document based upon the relationships by identifying and removing redundant logical components in each of the messages in the thread. (Also see specification page 6, lines 21-33, page.9, line 25 to page.10, line 2, and page.11, lines 15-34). However, the prior art of record fails to teach or suggest individually or in combination as stated above. Therefore, they are allowed.

All dependent claim further limit independent claim. Therefore, they are also allowed.

Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than

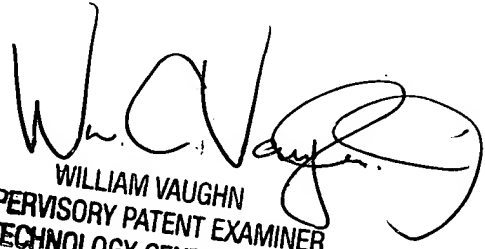
the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

Conclusion

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Tammy T. Nguyen whose telephone number is 571-272-3929. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday - Friday 8:30 - 5:30.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, ***William Vaughn*** can be reached on 571-272-3922. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300. Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

WV
TNN
August 14, 2006


WILLIAM VAUGHN
SUPERVISORY PATENT EXAMINER
TECHNOLOGY CENTER 2100